Transferring forests to central list

1649. SHRIVIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the workshop "Media Plan for Promotion of Forest Cover in the country", held recently in Bhopal, it was suggested that forests should be transferred from the Concurrent to the Central list as this would be better technically, administratively and legally and would further help in protecting the forests; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating such a change and what is the time-frame for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During the workshop on 'Media Plan for Promotion of Forest Cover in the Country' organized at Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal on 22nd June 2004, a suggestion to transfer forests from Concurrent list to Central list was cursorily made.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

Sewri-Nava link project

1650. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for a Link (Sewri-Nava Link project) connecting Mumbai to the Mainland in order to reduce congestion in the Island city, for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far for clearance of the project and the extent of cost escalation suffered by the project due to this delay;

(c) whether decision has since been taken to accord due clearance of the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.